Eucharist

For me…

“The Church draws her life from the Eucharist.” from: Eucharist: Heart of the Church John Paul II's encyclical Ecclesia de Eucharistia in condensed form

This statement draws all into the understanding that from the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ…all things flow within our Catholic Faith. I understand that the celebration of the Eucharist is central to all things I think, believe and do in the name of my faith. Without the Eucharist, we would not have a universality or communion with each other. We could all go about our own way of living our faith without any commonalities. Once we agree to celebrate the Eucharist as one – we (the members of the Catholic Church agree to live our lives as Christ did. In honour of and remembrance of what he said and how he asked us to live our lives for God. We have one central, common, unifying understanding of the ultimate sacrifice God made for the sake of our salvation.

For my elementary aged students…

1. *I am with you always, to the close of the age (Mt 28:20),… The Eucharist is not a private devotional prayer, but is rather a communal act of worship which, among other things, calls us to go forth and live out in the world what we celebrate inside of a church, Eucharistic table calls us to justice, to reach out to the poor… “A communal act of worship which calls you to go forth”*

*The Eucharist as a call to Justice, Ron Rolheiser, OMI 2009-08-02*

These words help us to understand that when we accept the holy Eucharist, we are accepting Christ into ourselves, because this sacrament is the way that he gave us to stay together, united with him. If we are united with Christ, we must do as Christ would do if he were here on earth again – serve the poor and love one another as God loves us.